

'Bournemouth yobs' then big match trouble

WHEN Wycombe Wanderers' fan Raymond Freeman went to the club's F.A. Cup home tie with Bournemouth he wore a white coat. On the back of that coat the words 'Bournemouth Yobs' were written, Wycombe magistrates were told on Monday.

They fined Freeman, of 59 Kingsmead Road, High Wycombe, £50 after he admitted using behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace at the match.

Inspector F. Timms, prosecuting, said that police at the hospital end of the ground were in the process of separating large rival groups of fans and the atmosphere was very tense.

Freeman, wearing a white coat decorated with the words 'Bournemouth Yobs' was leading the Wycombe Wanderers fans in a stream of verbal abuse aimed at the nearby Bournemouth fans. At one time he had stood facing the visiting fans with a clenched fist in the air. This had caused the Bournemouth fans to move forward and a scuffle had broken out.

When arrested Freeman said: "It was not only me that was doing it."

In other hearings, two youths were fined £25 each for using behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace. They were Brian Murray, 20, of 48 Suffield Road, High Wycombe, and Martin Brooks, 18, of 67 Westover Road, Downley.

Mr. Timms said that police had broken up a running fight between three men at the match, one of whom had been Brooks, who pleaded guilty to the charge. He told police: "All I was doing was helping a mate." The police had intervened after they heard the words "Police help", said Mr. Timms.

Brooks told the court: "I was not in the three that were fighting — I was outside it."

The case against Murray was

proved. P. Sgt. Frederick Ashmore said that he had been on duty at the hospital end of the ground standing among rival groups of fans. He arrested Murray after he saw him fighting. Murray told the court that he had been jumped on by a man he did not know. He had fought back to protect himself. Brooks told the court that he had been trying to help his friend, but agreed with Inspector Timms that he did not know who had started the fight.

Another man was fined £15 for obstructing the police in the course of their duty and ordered to pay £5 legal costs. He was Ronald Morris, of Byeways, Salmons Lane, Prestwood. He pleaded guilty.

Inspector Timms said that P.C. Robert Maxwell was arresting a man at the ground when Morris, aged 17, came up to him and tried to stop the arrest by pulling the officer's arm away from the man. This happened three times and another officer then arrested Morris.

Mr. J. Bomken, for Morris, said that he had gone to the match with the man who had been arrested. During a scuffle a policeman's hat had bowled along the terraces and Morris's friend had picked it up. Morris, in the heat of the moment had wanted to stop the officer arresting his friend so that explanations could be made and he need not miss the end of the game.

Mr. Bomken said that no charges had later been made against Morris's friend. Morris had one previous conviction at Amersham Court last week for causing damage.